



## JAMESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Zoom: Meeting ID: 875 5524 6071

Zoom Meeting Recorded

**In attendance:** J. Antonello, B. Lundy, S. Shim Gorelick, A. Kuhn-Hines, Leo Orsi, R. Shein, and G. Souza

- I. Roll Call and Call to Order: Warm Welcome to Robert Shein-joining the JCC!**
- II. Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2021, **Motion to approve Meeting minutes 1<sup>st</sup> Leo Orsi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Shim Gorelick, all in favor - motion passed.**
- III. OPEN FORUM:**
  - A) Scheduled request to address: Carol Nelson-Lee and Samira Hakki of the Friends of Jamestown Rights of Ways and Roads updated the JCC on the status of the draft MOU between CRMC, Friends of JTN ROWs, the Town of Jamestown and the JCC. The MOU describes the respective responsibilities of the various entities for implementing the CRMC “Adopt-an-Access” Program for 14 CRMC designated ROWs located on Conanicut Island (mostly in the JTN Shores area). The MOU describes the monthly monitoring and reporting duties that the Friends of JTN ROWs will implement to check the 14 CRMC ROWs for condition, encroachments, trash, erosion, signage, boundary markers, etc. After discussion the JCC voted to send a letter to the Town Council supporting the Friends of JTN ROWs and the MOU with CRMC.
  - B) Non-scheduled request to address: None.
- IV. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**
  - A) None received
- V. CRMC, RIDEM AND TOWN OF JAMESTOWN ORDINANCE REVIEW**
  - A) CRMC: Updated report 2/9/22 on CRMC Rights of Ways (ROWs) across Rhode Island (14 CRMC ROWs on Jamestown) <http://www.crmc.ri.gov/publicaccess.html>  
March 2022 calendar: [http://www.crmc.ri.gov/calendars/2022\\_03.html](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/calendars/2022_03.html)
  - B) Reviewed and discussed revised RIDEM wetland setbacks. Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/promulgations/part/250-150-15-2>. Revised Freshwater Wetlands Rules have been finalized and RIDEM has now extended the effective date for the new rules from January 15, 2022, to July 1, 2022. The JCC discussed how the JCC will draft a memo to the Town Council detailing our concerns about the revised wetland regulations as they relate to the JTN Shores. The memo will be the basis for the town to submit a Municipal petition to RIDEM to amend the buffer standard to increase the width of a designated buffer zone protecting the freshwater wetland

resources in the JTN Shores' High Groundwater Table and Impervious Layer Overlay district.

- C) The JCC discussed the CRMC's draft proposals for Narragansett Bay SAMP Aquaculture Working Group, specifically the "New Enhanced Notification Processes for Aquaculture Applications" (Stakeholder Notification: Aquaculture Listserve, and Notification of coastal property owners within 500 ft of any Aquaculture applications); and Aquaculture Application Process (Expanded CRMC Aquaculture Preliminary Determination Process with local scoping sessions, etc.). The JCC agreed that these proposals will improve and enhance communication among the various stakeholders (e.g., nearby waterfront residents, the Town of JTN, the JCC, the aquaculture farmers, etc.) interested in aquaculture applications for siting the farms, maintaining, and renewing leases for aquaculture ventures.

## **VI. Old Business & Committee Reports:**

- B) Rights of Way/Parks/Greenways & Public Access: Land Protection and Stewardship: No new official updates to report on the 91 Carr Lane Mixed -Income Development project proposal since the July 7, 2021, JTN Planning Commission Meeting regarding the 91 Carr Lane project proposal (when the Church Community Housing Corporation requested more time to revise the proposal). The Town Administrator (Jamie Hainsworth) said that regarding the Wickford Avenue ROW, the town agreement with the neighbor to the south of Wickford Avenue has been legally finalized and the town will have access to the water (the JCC will follow up on the actual language of the agreement for clarification). The JCC will continue looking into applying for trail grants, and matching grants to support the building of a stairway to access water at Wickford Ave ROW. The JCC discussed that the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding does not cover trails and the funding will not be available to adapt the Kit Wright trail for accessibility. The JCC will develop a draft project proposal for the Kit Wright trail adaptation, along with an estimate of costs for materials, equipment, labor, after receiving technical specification advice from Atlantic Lawn & Garden. The JCC discussed Mackerel Cove dune restoration plans-replanting dune plants this Spring and this Fall 2022- the JCC will get estimates on costs and availability for the various dune plant species. The JCC will discuss dune fencing replacement options at Mackerel Cove with the Town (JCC is requesting more dune-friendly split rail fencing with roping, as opposed to 'snow fencing').
- C) Barbara Lundy reported on the various contacts she had made about the original electronic files (from 2007) for the Conanicut Island Trail maps (e.g., Chris Powell, Mark Baker, Mary Hutchinson, JTN Press). JTN resident, Mark Baker, still had the original files and provided them to Barbara. The JCC discussed that it would be good to have professional graphic designer help on updating, designing, and producing the revised Trail Maps. JTN resident and GIS professional, Mary Hutchinson, has designed trail maps and QR codes for other RI towns-so the JCC decided it would be good to reach out to Mary for expert advice.
- D) Public education: Susan Shim Gorelick presented "Rhody Grows Hope", an innovative "upcycling" program initiated by the Coalition Center for Environmental Sustainability: <https://www.cc4es.org/rhody-grows-hope/> Rhody Grows Hope is a creative container gardening project that inspires and supports growing food for food security, sovereignty, and justice. Susan will be setting up drop-off locations around Jamestown (e.g., JAC) so that islanders can contribute to the project by upcycling food containers to be used for growing vegetables, etc. The JCC continued discussing the coordination of future initiatives and community-wide collaborative coordination for

environmental education with other JTN groups: e.g., Sustainable Jamestown, JAC, Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation, Taylor Point Restoration Association, JTN Friends of ROWs, etc. (Susan Shim Gorelick, JCC) <https://www.cc4es.org/>. The JCC will plan to coordinate a meeting with the other environmental groups working across Jamestown to discuss setting up a website supported by the Town. Education outreach initiatives could include water conservation, eco-friendly yard care, feeding wildlife, invasive plant control, dog waste/watershed protection; stormwater protection; coastal resiliency; community composting, etc.

- E) Harbor Management Commission-George Souza provided an update on the HMC which is overseeing various eelgrass issues related to residential pier expansion applications. Leo Orsi volunteered to eventually start being the JCC liaison to the HMC, as George finishes his third (or more) term on the JCC.
- F) Tree Committee (G. Souza). George Souza reported that the Tree Committee is busy focusing on conducting their tree inventory across the island, which they received a grant to do an island-wide tree inventory, and a grant to do capacity building, and identifying unique trees on the island. The Tree Committee is also planning to restore/clean up the Town Tree Nursery/Inventory located on a plot next to the Jamestown Community Farm. Barbara Lundy volunteered to eventually start being the JCC liaison to the Tree Committee replacing George.
- G) Taylor Point Restoration Association (G. Souza). The TPRA have continued their every other Saturday clean up events (weather dependent) and are busy removing and reducing invasive species (greenbrier) near the black cherry woodlands at Taylor Point.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A) Leo Orsi updated the JCC on a proposal by Mariner Tower to construct a cell tower on the northwest corner of the Carr Homestead property on Carr Lane. The JCC discussed potential environmental concerns related to the proposed siting of a new Island Cell Tower location. The company proposing the cell tower (Mariner Tower) has not yet submitted any permit applications to the Town yet- the JCC will continue to monitor this proposed project for any environmental concerns.
- B) The JCC discussed appointing a JCC member to act as a liaison to the Gould Island advisory board, an ad hoc committee appointed by the Town to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remediate Gould Island beyond the scope of the current congressional authorization. Leo Orsi volunteered to act as the JCC liaison and Rob Shein also expressed an interest and could act as a backup liaison to the Gould Island advisory board for the JCC.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjourn – 8:39 PM –Motion to adjourn Leo Orsi 1<sup>st</sup>, Barbara Lundy 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor - motion passed**

*Respectfully submitted by Anne Kuhn-Hines*